

Appn. No. 09/696,095
Amendment dated June 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-39 and add new claims 40-47 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (New). A printing information distributing apparatus comprising:

printing information storage means for storing a plurality of printing information;

5 printing reservation means, connected to a first network connectable to a plurality of portable terminals carried by a plurality of users, for transmitting a printing reservation screen image to reserve printing information to a portable terminal, and generating reservation information showing printing
10 information reserved by the portable terminal and corresponding to identification information transmitted from the portable terminal;

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reservation information storage means for storing
reservation information generated by the printing reservation
15 means;

receiving means, connected to a second network connectable
to a plurality of output devices located at different places, for
receiving identification information input by an output device
and transmitted from the output device;

20 reading means, for retrieving the reservation information
storage means based on the identification information received by
the receiving means, and reading the reservation information
corresponding to the identification information from the
reservation information storage means; and

25 transmitting means, connected to the second network, for
reading from the printing information storage means the printing
information corresponding to the reservation information read
from the reading means, and printing out the printing information
by transmitting the printing information to the output device.

Claim 41 (New). The printing information distributing
apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the identification
information transmitted from the portable terminal comprises a
terminal identification for specifying the portable terminal.

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Claim 42 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

5 prepaid amount storage means for storing a prepaid amount corresponding to the identification information transmitted from the portable terminal;

10 accounting means for subtracting an amount corresponding to a printing charge of the printing information from the prepaid amount stored in the prepaid amount storage means, when the transmitting means transmits the printing information to the output device; and

15 control means for transmitting the printing information to the transmitting means when the prepaid amount stored in the prepaid amount storage means covers the printing charge of the printing information, and controlling the transmitting means so that the printing information is not transmitted to the transmitting means when the prepaid amount does not cover the printing charge of the printing information.

Claim 43 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

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attribute information storage means for storing attribute information corresponding to the identification information; and

5 reservation limitation information storage means for storing reservation limitation information that limits reservations for printing based on user attribute information by each of the printing information; and

wherein the printing reservation means refers to the
10 limitation information storage means before generating reservation information, and does not generate reservation information when the attribute information corresponding to identification information falls under reservation limitation information corresponding to printing information.

Claim 44 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising printing limitation information storage means for storing printing information that limits printing information corresponding to the
5 output device,

wherein the transmitting means limits transmission of printing information to the output device based on the printing limitation information stored in the printing limitation

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information storage means when transmitting printing information
10 to the output device.

Claim 45 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the transmitting means transmits charge information showing a printing charge of printing information corresponding to the reservation information 5 read by the reading means to the output device, and prints out the printing information by transmitting the printing information to the output device when information showing the amount corresponding to the charge information from the output device has been fair-adjusted is transmitted.

Claim 46 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

password generation means generating a password for each of the printing information when printing information is reserved by 5 the portable terminal; and

identification information storage means for storing a password generated by the password generating means and corresponding to the printing information reserved by the information terminal;

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10 wherein the printing reservation means transmits the password generated by the password generating means to the portable terminal; and
the transmitting means transmits the printing information corresponding to the password to the output device and prints out
15 the printing information when the password transmitted from the output device and the password stored in the password storage means match.

Claim 47 (New). A recording medium having a computer readable program code, said recording medium comprising:

a computer readable program code for storing a plurality of printing information in printing information storage means;
5 a computer readable program code for transmitting a printing reservation screen image to reserve printing information to a portable terminal through a first network connectable to a plurality of portable terminals and generating reservation information showing printing information reserved by the portable
10 terminal and corresponding to identification information transmitted from the portable terminal;
a computer readable program code for storing reservation information generated by the printing reservation means in reservation information storage means;

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15 a computer readable program code for receiving identification information input by an output device and transmitted from the output device through a second network connectable to a plurality of output devices located at different places;

20 a computer readable program code for retrieving the reservation information storage means based on the received identification information; and

 a computer readable program code for reading from the printing information storage means the printing information

25 corresponding to the read reservation information, and printing out the printing information by transmitting the printing information to the output device through the second network.